Nakabiya to Kursela in Khagaria district in Bihar is very fertile and the farmers there have to bear exorbitant prices due to dependence on other bazaars for manure/fertilizers required for fertile agriculture;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up a manure fertilizer factory in Khagaria region for the benefit of farmers;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Urea, a controlled fertilizer and decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers are made available to farmers of the country including those belonging to Khagaria District in Bihar at statutorily notified maximum retail price (MRP)/indicative MRPs. The MRP/indicative MRPs of fertilizers are uniform throughout the country.

(b) to (d) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Banned pesticides

4646. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of banned pesticides are still being used by farmers of Punjab and elsewhere in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to curb and check the marketing of such pesticides and action taken against culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Government does not have any authentic report regarding use of banned pesticides by farmers in Punjab and other parts of the country.

(c) The manufacture, sale, distribution and use of banned pesticides is a punishable offence under the Insecticides Act, 1968. Insecticide inspectors have been provided with the requisite powers to ensure that the provisions of the Act and the Rules made there under are compiled with.

Horticulture promotion in Orissa

4647. DR. RADHAKANT NAYAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the areas identified in Orissa to promote horticulture; and

(b) the details of the financial assistance provided by National Horticulture Board to develop horticulture projects in the State during the last five year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Under the Central Sector Scheme on Integrated Development of Horticulture in Tribal and Hilly areas, the Districts of Keonjhar, Gajapati and Koraput have been identified for development of Horticulture.

(b) The details of financial assistance in the form of back ended capital investment subsidy provided by National Horticulture Board to develop horticulture projects in the State under its scheme, 'Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management' during the last five years, are given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Years	No. of projects	Amount of subsidy sanctioned
1.	2000-01	1	0.25
2.	2001-02	2	0.13
3.	2002-03	13	0.89
4.	2003-04	1	0.02
5.	2004-05	7	0.06
	TOTAL	**24**	**1.35**

CEFS campaign for freedom from hunger

4648. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre for Environment and Food Security (CEFS) has launched a nationwide freedom from hungar campaign to mitigate suffering of 340 million people in the country, if so, whether it has been decided to observe year 2005 as a year of complete freedom from Hunger;

(b) whether outlining reasons for launching campaign, it has been pointed